

## CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for supplying pressurized gas to a plurality of gas outlets from an upstream gas supply, in which each of the plurality of gas outlets in use is connected to a common gas feed line via a respective valve, each valve being adapted to close to prevent the flow of gas downstream of the valve in the event of the integrity of the feed line being breached downstream of the respective valve, to prevent the escape of gas from the breached feed line, and wherein each valve includes a valve member which is moveable into engagement with a valve seat to close the valve, and a valve member damping means to resist movement of the valve member into engagement with the valve seat.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the damping means resists movement of the valve member to close the valve during a purging operation.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the damping means of each valve only delays valve member movement to close the valve so that in the event of a breach of the integrity of the feed line downstream of the valve, the valve member can after such delay, engage the valve seat to close the valve and prevent the escape of gas from the breached feed line downstream of the valve.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the damping means includes a closed ended cylinder containing a piston, there being a small orifice in the piston to allow a controlled flow of gas therethrough, the valve member acting on the piston when moved to close the valve, resulting in piston movement which compresses gas behind the piston, which compressed gas is gradually allowed to escape from the cylinder via the orifice.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the apparatus is configured so that pressurized gas is fed to both the upstream and downstream sides of the valves, and each valve member is moveable into engagement with a second valve seat of a respective valve to close the valve to prevent the flow of gas to upstream of the valve in the event of the integrity of the feed line being breached upstream of the respective valve.

6. An apparatus according to claim 5 wherein each valve is of a “T” configuration, permitting the flow of gas through the valve when the valve member is out of engagement with the or either valve seat of the valve, whilst permitting gas flow from upstream or downstream of the valve to the gas outlet even in the event of the valve member being in engagement with the or either valve seat.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1 which is a gas supply apparatus for supplying a breathable gas, and the apparatus is provided in an aircraft to supply breathable gas in the event of an emergency situation.

8. A method of operating an apparatus for supplying pressurized gas to a plurality of gas outlets from an upstream gas supply, each of the plurality of gas outlets in use being connected to a common gas feed line via a respective valve, each valve being adapted to close to prevent the flow of gas downstream of the valve in the event of the integrity of the feed line being breached downstream of the respective valve, to prevent the escape of gas from the breached feed line, and wherein each valve includes a valve member which is moveable into engagement with a valve seat to close the valve, and the method including damping valve member movement to resist movement of the valve member into engagement with the valve seat at least during filling of the apparatus with gas.

9. An aircraft having a gas supply system for supplying breathable gas in the event of an emergency occurring, there being a plurality of gas outlets and an upstream gas supply, each of the plurality of gas outlets in use, being connected to a common gas feed line via a respective valve, each valve being adapted to close to prevent the flow of gas downstream of the valve in the event of the integrity of the feed line being breached downstream of the respective valve, to prevent the escape of gas from the breached feed line, and wherein each valve includes a valve member which is moveable into engagement with a valve seat to close the valve, and a valve member damping means to resist movement of the valve member into engagement with the valve seat.

10. A valve of "T" configuration including a valve member moveable into engagement with a valve seat to prevent the flow of fluid through the valve from upstream to downstream of the valve, whilst permitting the flow of fluid from upstream to an outlet of the valve, and wherein the valve includes a damping means which resists valve member movement into engagement with the valve seat.